

# Comprehensive Tolling Study Outreach Materials and Next Steps

*Presented to*

**Washington State Transportation Commission**

*presented by*

**Jeffrey Buxbaum, Cambridge Systematics**

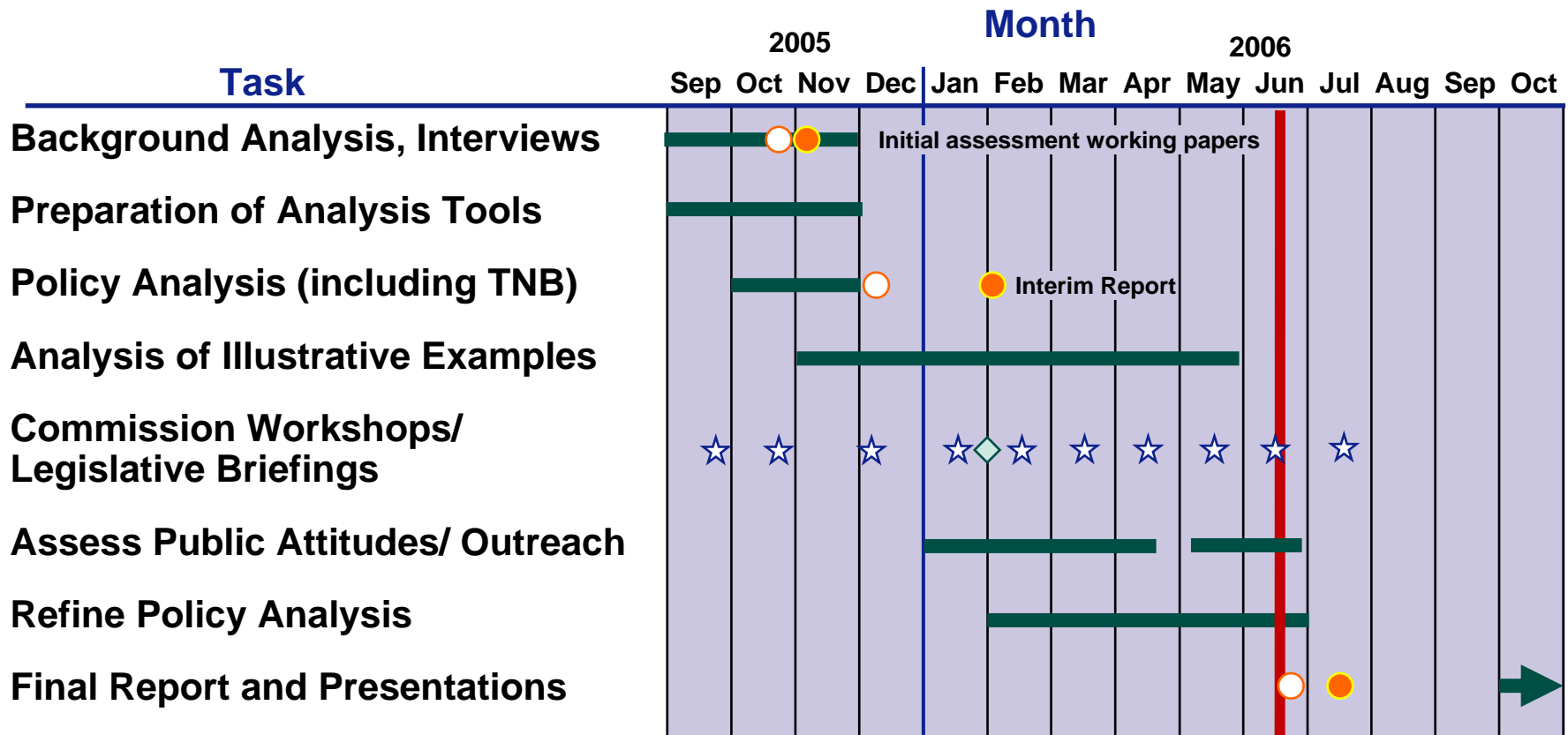
**June 13, 2006**



**Washington State  
Transportation Commission**

# Project Outcome and Schedule

**Outcome –**  
**Commission recommendations on overall policy**  
**and implementation strategy**



☆ Commission Workshops ◇ Legislative Briefing ○ Draft ● Final

# Today's agenda

- **Final review of recommended policy direction**
- **Legal and regulatory analysis summary**
- **Review of outreach materials and plans.**

# Recommended Policies

- **Eight policies developed at May meeting**
- **Ninth potential policy raised by Tolling Committee for discussion today:**
  - **“The availability of toll revenue should not influence the project priority setting process in the State”**

# **Legal Issues**

## ***High Level Direction***

- **Should future decisions to use tolls be made by elected lawmakers on a case-by-case basis, or would the Commission and WSDOT be able to implement tolls based on broad policy direction?**
  - **Suggest legislation to**
    - **Establish basic policies and criteria**
    - **Specify responsibilities of legislature, Commission, WSDOT, local and multi-state entities**

# Legal Issues

## *Tolling Authority and Other Units of Government*

- **Statutes should be amended to clarify the scope of the state tolling authority's role and responsibility with respect to local tolls**
- **Clarify procedures for approving new local toll projects**
- **Suggest local entities be required to obtain approval from State Tolling Authority**
  - **If voter approval required, approval should be required in advance**

# Legal Issues

## *Tolls on Federally Funded Facilities*

- **Generally prohibited with some exceptions**
  - Value pricing projects
  - Certain pilot programs
- **State should act swiftly and decisively to obtain FHWA approval for such projects**

# **Legal Issues**

## ***Use of Toll Revenue***

- **State law does not currently address the disposition of toll revenue, except on Tacoma Narrows and SR 167**
- **Legislation should address accounting and disposition of toll revenue to pay for**
  - **toll system operation and maintenance,**
  - **Construction and maintenance of highways**
  - **Other parts of the transportation system**



# Legal Issues

## *Privacy Issues*

- **Legislature recently strengthened privacy protection for electronic toll collection**
- **Monitor experience on Tacoma Narrows Bridge and determine whether privacy protections are adequate**

# Legal Issues

## *Environmental Regulations*

- **Make sure environmental regulations are followed when selecting specific facilities for tolling**

# Proposed Near Term Action Plan

- **Funding for Commission and WSDOT to carry out mission of Tolling Authority**
- **Develop Specific Procedures to Develop and Approve Toll Projects**
- **Develop Specific Practices related to Toll Collection Activities**

# Update on outreach plans

- **Objective:**

- Present the draft findings of the Comprehensive Tolling Study to the public, and provide an opportunity for the Commission to hear public reaction to those findings

- **What:**

- Morning roundtable with community leaders
- Editorial board meetings
- Early evening open house

- **When:**

- June 20 Vancouver
- June 21 & 22 Seattle
- June 22 & 23 Bellingham
- June 27 & 28 Tri-Cities
- June 28 & 29 Spokane